

ECACENTRE





Ministerial Statement

A Statement by The Honourable Norman Lacy, M.P. Assistant Minister of Education, 30th September, 1980.

On the 16th October, 1979, in a statement to the Legislative Assembly, I announced the ECACENTRE Program.

In that statement I indicated that the program would accelerate the provision of facilities at post-primary schools for gymnasias, assembly and other educational purposes. The new program absorbed and replaced the former assembly hall program and enables many more schools to develop as valuable community education activity centres. During recent years the number of schools to benefit from the assembly hall program has substantially declined. For example, in the 1976-77 financial year six schools saw projects constructed; in 1977-78, three schools; and in 1978-79, three schools.

Under the ECACENTRE Program two options will be available to schools which have not benefited from assistance for assembly halls or community education projects to date. Firstly, schools may elect to be allocated a standard design ECACENTRE without contribution. The functional standard design includes sufficient space for an olympic-sized basketball court as well as change-shower rooms and toilets and a mezzanine activities or viewing area.

Secondly, schools may elect to co-ordinate the development of their project with the Department of Youth, Sport and Recreation, local government or other funding sources for the provision of an ECACENTRE that includes additional facilities. In these cases schools will receive a grant equivalent to the cost of the standard design.

As a result of the substantially changed circumstances of schools and local communities since it

was published, as well as the advent of the new program, the former assembly hall list was abolished as an indicator of priority.

On the 12th December, 1979, I released a second statement giving details of the ECACENTRE program policy: the schools approved to receive an ECACENTRE in the 1980/81 financial year; the method by which a program for 1981/82 would be established for pre- 1968 post-primary schools; Regional responsibility for post - 1968 post-primary schools; and the continuance of the Community Education Program.

I indicated that the new program applied to schools which were established on or before the 1st May 1968 and the following criteria had been approved as the basis for establishing a new order of priority:-

1. The existence of school facilities suitable for physical education, drama or assembly.
2. The availability of community facilities within close proximity to the school suitable for these purposes.
3. Present and projected enrolments.
4. Other factors recommended by the Regional Priority Review Committee and approved by the Assistant Minister.

Against these criteria fourteen schools were allocated a priority. These, together with a further five schools with commitments from the original program, formed the 1st Stage of the ECACENTRE Program for the 1980/81 financial year.



The following schools form Stage 1 of the Program :-

Maffra High
Altona High
Parkdale High
Monbulk High
Mortlake High
Sunbury High
Werribee High
Broadmeadows High
Newlands High
Prahran High

Healesville High
Trafalgar High
Leongatha Tech
Benalla High
Cohuna High
Bell Park High
Queenscliff High
Beaufort High
Ouyen High

Planning and documentation for these nineteen ECACENTRE projects has progressed satisfactorily and it is anticipated that tenders for most of those projects will be invited by the end of October 1980.

To formulate the 2nd Stage of the Program the Regional Priority Review Committees considered priorities for schools within their respective regions that fall within the criteria established. On receiving the regional priorities I appointed a working group to recommend a program for the provision of ECACENTRES in the 1981/82 financial year. Consequently, this program reflects a statewide determination of needs and not necessarily an equitable distribution between regions.

A total of twenty post-primary schools were recommended for consideration on the basis that they were without any facilities for physical education, drama or assembly, and six post-primary schools were recommended under the fourth of the approved criteria, as special cases. It has been necessary to defer, for future consideration, six of the twenty schools on the basis of a comparison of their small enrolments and also the six special cases on the basis of their existing facilities.

The remaining fourteen post-primary schools established prior to May 1968 have been approved and included in the second stage of the ECACENTRE program.

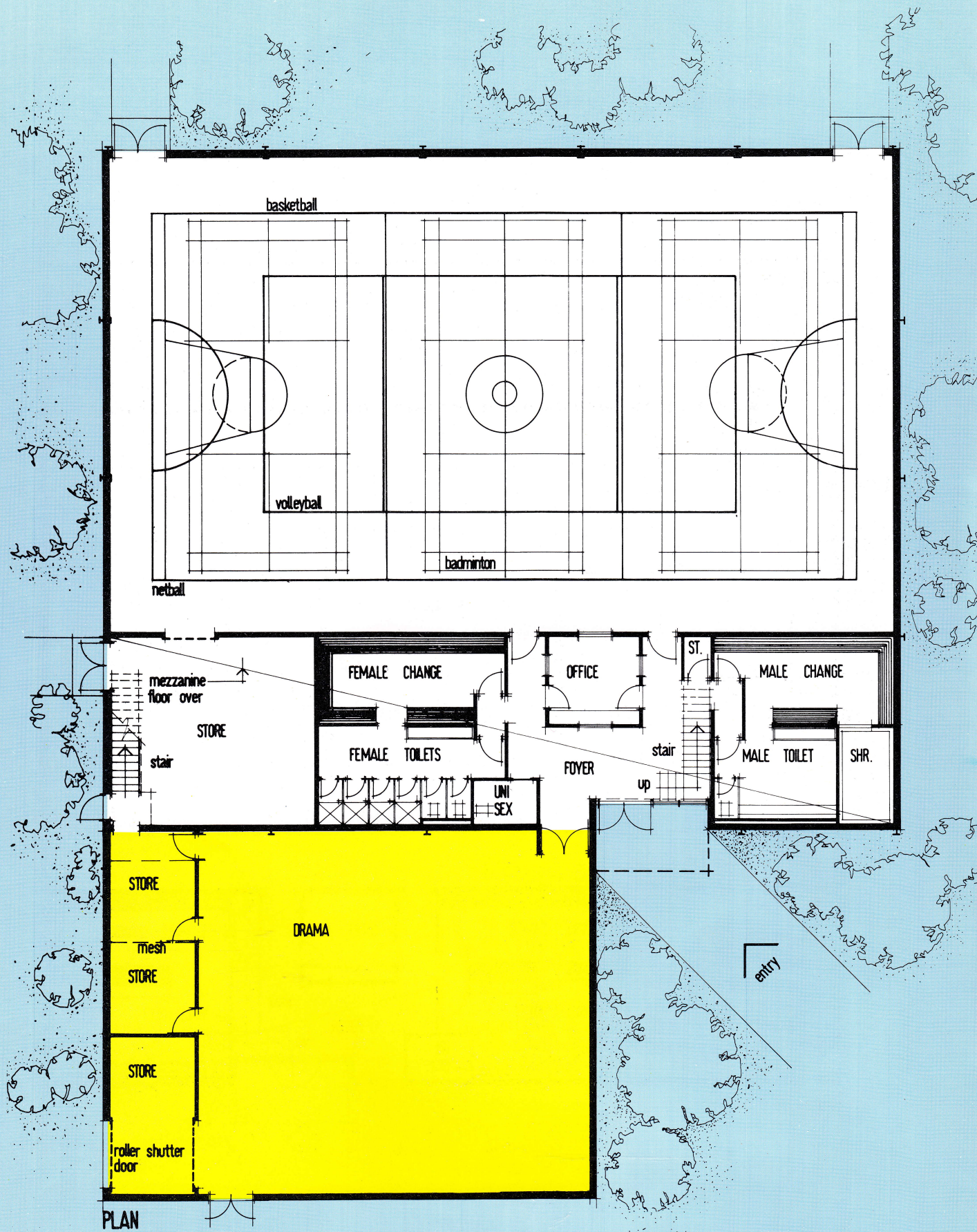
In my statement of the 12th December 1979 I also advised that I had written to Regional Priority Review Committees indicating that I required them to frame their future recommendations for assembly halls and gymnasias in terms of the new ECACENTRE policy as part of and charge against, their respective Regional Major Works Programs.

In the process of approving Regional Major Works Programs for 1980/81 financial year, it became evident that the on-going need for Regions to direct their recommendations to new pupil place requirements and upgrade works, made their task of recommending the inclusion of ECACENTRES in Regional Major Works Programs impossible.

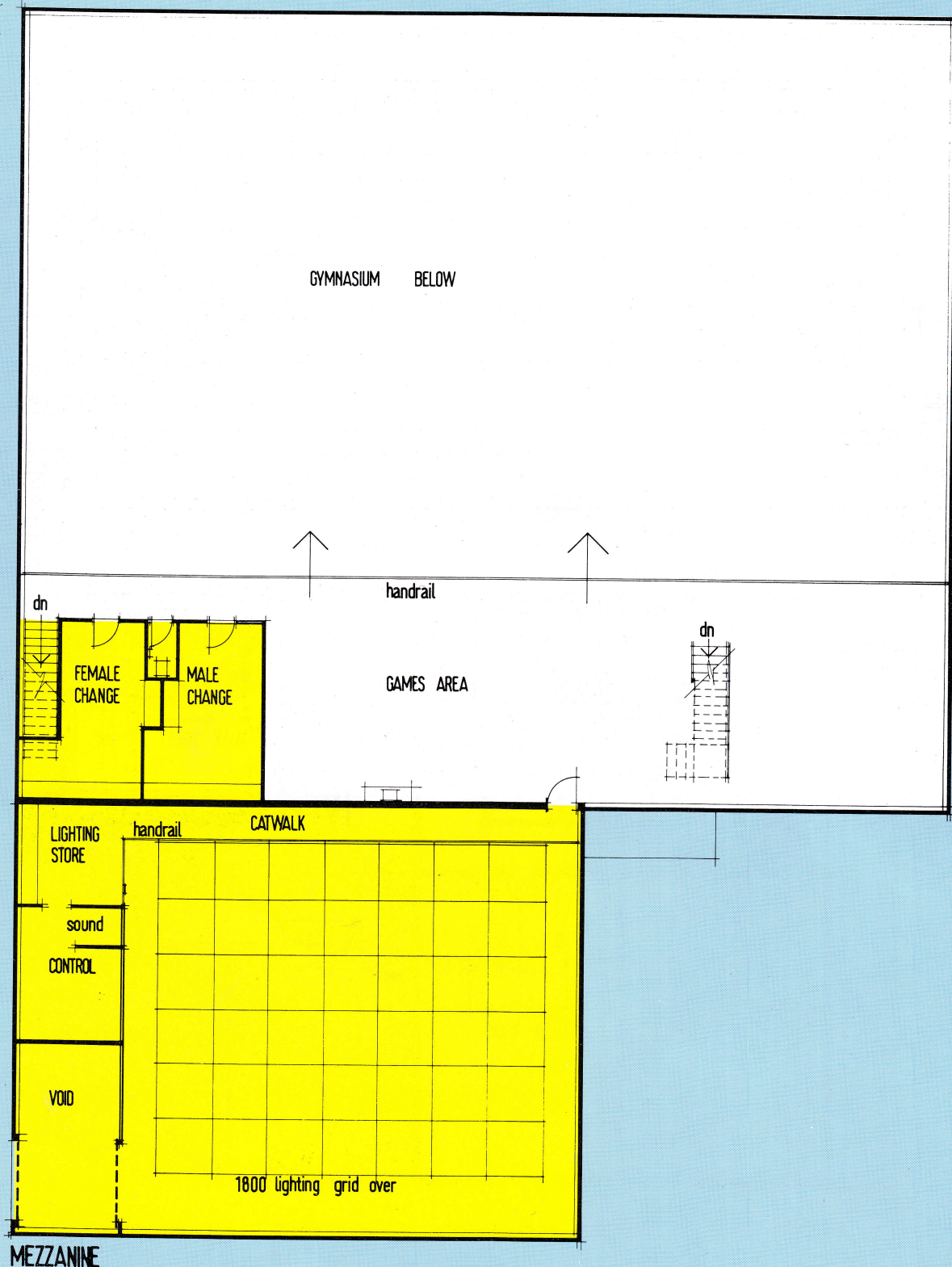
On a statewide basis, there are thirty-nine post-primary schools established after the 1st May 1968 up to and including those established in 1980, that do not have physical education, drama or assembly facilities.

I have therefore decided that the needs of the post-1968 post-primary schools must be considered in conjunction with the needs of the pre-1968 post-primary schools and accordingly, for the second stage of the program provision of all ECACENTRES will be a charge against central, rather than regional funds.

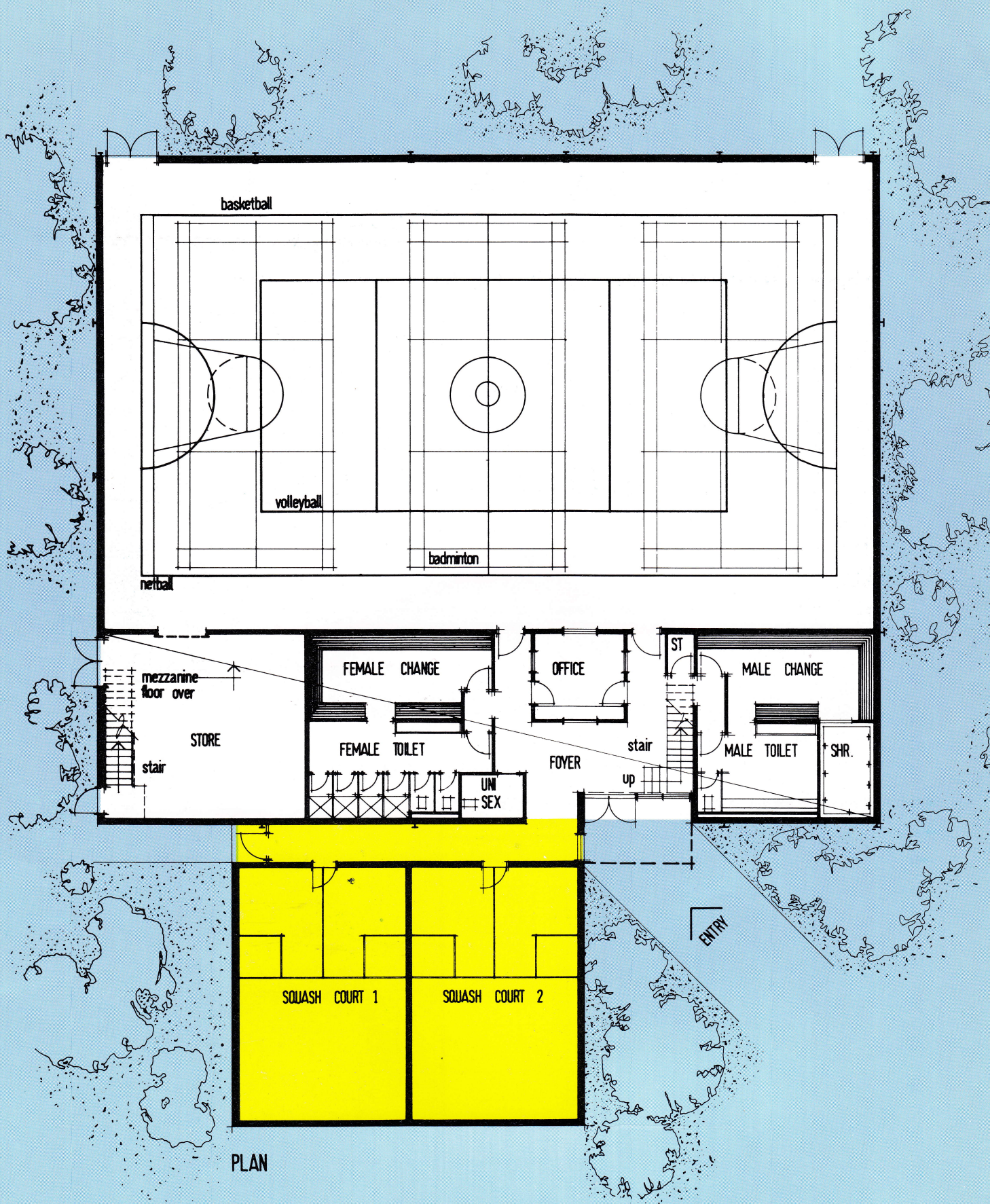
This decision has resulted in a total of eleven post-1968 post-primary schools, established up to and including 1974, that do not have facilities for physical education, drama or assembly or the availability of such facilities within close proximity to their schools, being integrated with the fourteen pre-1968 post-primary schools, and together form the second stage of the ECACENTRE program which will commence to be committed in the 1981/82 financial year.



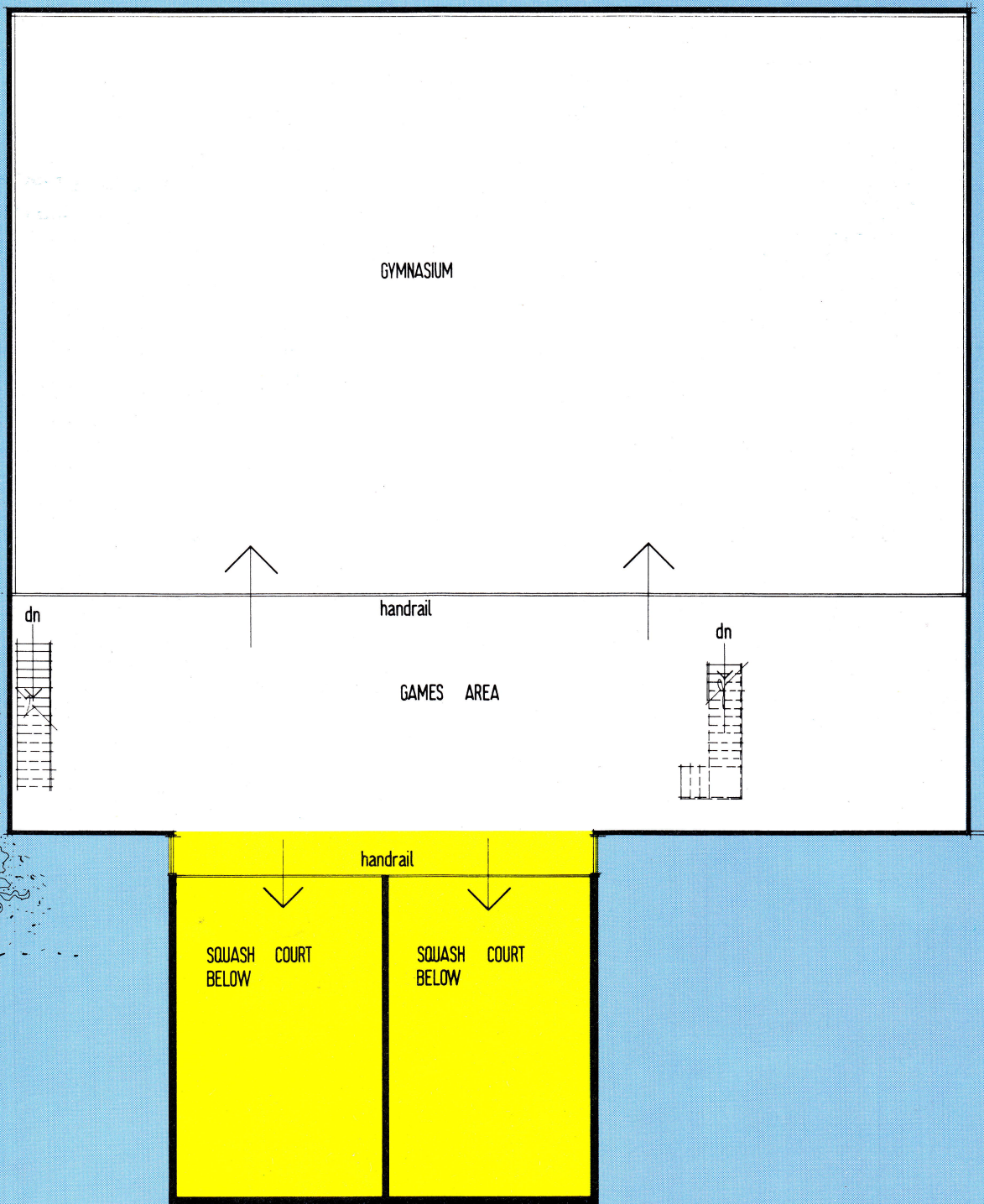
ECACENTRE + DRAMA



MEZZANINE



ECACENTRE + SQUASH



MEZZANINE

projects funded from this source over the past two years, I am confident that this new program will retain sufficient flexibility for my Department to continue to respond to other funding sources.

In accordance with this commitment to maintain a Community Education fund to respond to other funding sources, ten post-primary schools have received approval for Community Education Grants, towards the cost of ECACENTRE-type projects and for which local and other Government sources are making substantial contributions.



The Schools approved for grants for this purpose in alphabetical order are :-

Bairnsdale Tech
Berwick High
Gladstone Park High
Glen Waverley High

Keysborough Tech/
Coomoora High
Mansfield High
Thornbury High
Timboon High



My Government is committed to expend a total of at least \$8.2 million in the period July 1980 to June 1982 on the provision of ECACENTRES at post-primary schools throughout Victoria.

The release of this second stage program of twenty-five post-primary schools, together with the nineteen named in the first stage and the ten funded as Community Education Projects, brings to a total of fifty-four post-primary schools that will receive a long awaited facility that will not only enhance activities within the school curriculum but will also provide a valuable asset for general community use.





Activities

This will provide a gymnasium type space which will provide floor markings for :—

Basketball
Volleyball
Netball
Badminton

In addition the facility could be used for :—

Gymnastics
Martial art
Dance groups
Public or commercial displays

Developed by Building Division, Public Works Department Victoria, in conjunction with planning services, Secondary and Technical Divisions of the Education Department.

For further information

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